

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02589 081437Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PRS-01 OPIC-06 XMB-04 FEA-01

PA-02 /117 W

----- 089819

R 081403Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3923

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2589

USDOC FOR CAGNE

BEIRUT FOR RTDO AND PETROLEUM OFFICER CLEW

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, ENRG, SY

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN SYRIAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

REF: BEIRUT 7558

1. SYRIAN PETROLEUM MINISTER ADNAN MUSTAPHA TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 5 THAT HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE "WEAK RESPONSE" OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S PUBLISHED INVITATION TO FOREIGN FIRMS TO BID ON OIL LEASES. HE SAID THAT TRENDX, PHILLIPS, AMOCO, AND MILFORD HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT IMPLIED THAT THEIR QUERIES DID NOT INDICATE SERIOUS INTEREST. ALREADY CONCESSIONS HAD BEEN AWARDED TO THE HUNGARIANS AND RUMANIANS, AND MUSTAPHA THOUGHT THAT AMERICAN FIRMS WOULD LOSE OUT ALTOGETHER IF THEY DID NOT REACT MORE POSITIVELY. HE SAID HE COULD NOT

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UNDERSTAND THE INDIFFERENT AMERICAN RESPONSE GIVEN THE

SUCCESS OF TRIPCO'S RECENT BID FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION  
AND EXPLOITATION RIGHTS.

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ADDRESSEES TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO  
BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF AMERICAN OIL  
FIRMS SYRIA'S DESIRE TO INCREASE AMERICAN PARTICIPA-  
TION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HER PETROLEUM POTENTIAL.  
SYRIA INVITED BIDS IN AN ADVERTISEMENT IN BRITISH  
JOURNAL "ECONOMIST", JUNE 7, 1975; DETAILS CAN BE  
OBTAINED BY CABLING "PETSRYIA, DAMASCUS, MINISTRY OF  
PETROLEUM, HEAD OF PETROLEUM CONTRACTS GROUP." TELEX  
11006.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 7558  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JAN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JAN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN SYRIAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION  
**TAGS:** BTIO, ENRG, SY, US  
**To:** STATE COM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006